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by E. L. Wong and A. E. Potter

Lewis Research Center Cleveland, Ohio

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MASS SPECTROMETRIC INVESTIGATION OF THE REACTIONS OF

O-ATOMS WITH H2 AND NH3

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Lewis Research Center

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Cleveland, Ohio

ABSTRACT

The reaction of H_2 with 0 in the absence of O_2 was studied in the temperature range 400° to 600° K by using a stirred reactor with a mass spectrometer for analysis. The rate constant for the H_2 + 0 \rightarrow 0H + H reaction was found to be $4.3 \times 10^{13} e^{-10,200/RT} cc/(mole)(sec)$. The rate of O consumption was about three to five times smaller in the absence of O_2 than in its presence. This difference was quantitatively explained as a result of the reaction sequence $H + O_2 + M \rightarrow HO_2 + M$; $HO_2 + O \rightarrow OH + O_2$. The reaction of NH_3 with O in the absence of O_2 was also studied for the temperature range 350° to 600° K. The stoichiometry of the reaction could be approximately represented by NH_3 + 4.4 O \rightarrow NO + 0.5 H_2 + 1.2 O_2 + 1.0 H_2 0. In contrast to the H_2 + 0 reaction, the rates for consumption of 0 were not affected by the presence or absence of excess O2 within experimental error. A reaction mechanism was proposed, and using this mechanism the rate constant for the $NH_3 + O \rightarrow NH_2 + OH re$ action was estimated to be $1\times10^{12}~e^{-4,800/RT}~cc/(mole)(sec)$. onfre

TNTRODUCTION

Recently the mass spectrometric technique was used to make kinetic

¹E. L. Wong, and A. E. Potter, J. Chem. Phys. <u>39</u>, 2211 (1963).



measurement of the $\rm H_2$ + 0 and $\rm NH_3$ + 0 reactions in the presence of excess 0. Since it seems likely that the presence of excess molecular oxygen might affect the course of the reaction, the measurements were repeated in the absence of molecular oxygen.

The reaction of $\rm H_2$ + 0 has been studied previously by other investigators using various experimental methods. 2-6 The purpose for repeating this measurement was to test the authors' experimental technique¹ and provide additional information on this important reaction.

The reaction of NH_3 + O has also been investigated previously^{1,2,7-9} but never thoroughly and never in the absence of O_2 .

²P. Harteck and U. Kopsch, Z. Physik. Chem. Bl2, 327 (1931).

³C. P. Fenimore and G. W. Jones, J. Phys. Chem., 65, \$\\ 993\ (1961).

⁴F. Kaufman, Progress in Reaction Kinetics (Pergamon Press, Ltd., London, 1961), ★ ρρ. /-40.

⁵M. A. A. Clyne and B. A. Thrush, Roy. Soc. Proc. <u>A275</u>, 544 (1963).

 $^{^6}$ V. V. Azatyan, V. V. Voevodsky, and A. B. Nalbandyan, Kinetika i Kataliz, $\underline{2}$, λ , 340 (1961).

 $^{^{7}}$ G. E. Moore, K. E. Shuler, S. Silverman, and R. Herman, J. Phys. Chem. <u>60</u>, % 813 χ (1956).

 $^{^{8}}$ C. P. Fenimore and G. W. Jones, J. Phys. Chem. <u>65</u>, 2 , 298 (1961).

⁹L. I. Avramenko, R. V. Kolesnikova, and N. L. Kuznetsova, Izv. Akad. Nauk. S. S. S. R., Otd. Khim. Nauk. ✓ <u>6</u>, 983 (1962).

EXPERIMENTAL

Apparatus

The 300-cc stirred reactor and its connection to the Bendix time-of-flight mass spectrometer (model 14-101) is shown in Fig. 1 and has also been described in reference 1. One change from the previous arrangement was the use of a stainless steel leak hole diameter of 0.005 in. instead of the former Pyrex leak hole diameter of ~ 0.01 in. It was found that the smaller metallic leak hole could be used provided that the mass spectrometer sensitivity is at a high enough level to monitor small changes in 0 concentration easily.

Materials

The various gases used in this work are described in the following table:

Gas	Purity, percent
H ₂	99.9
N ₂	99.9
02	99.5
NH ₃	99.9
$^{ m ND}_{ m 3}$	99.5
Ar	99.9
NO	99.5

The purity of these gases was checked mass spectrometrically. NO was purified by the usual trapping procedures and then analyzed mass

spectrometrically to be at least 99.5 percent pure before it was used.

Nitrogen dioxide gas was prepared by adding pure O_2 gas to purified NO gas and subjecting the resulting mixture to a trapping procedure to remove the excess O_2 .

Oxygen atoms were produced by adding NO to a stream of active N_2 gas, 10 or by subjecting a dilute 0_2 in argon gas mixture to a microwave discharge. The microwave generator was a Raytheon Model KV 104(NB), $100\text{-W}.^1$

Mass Spectrometric Monitoring of O-Atom Concentrations

Atomic oxygen can be monitored with the mass spectrometer either at m/e = 16 or at m/e = 8. The former can be used only in the absence of interference from O_2 , NH_3 , or other molecules which yield prominent m/e = 16 peaks. The latter can be used whenever such interference is present. It is definitely preferable to work at m/e = 16 when possible, since the instrument is operated at 30 ionizing electron volts and at a relative low sensitivity level. In this manner of operation, the noise level is so low that an excellent signal-to-noise ratio can be achieved. When it is necessary to work at m/e = 8, 85 ionizing electron volts and a very high sensitivity setting is required to detect the atomic oxygen peak. Such operating conditions result in a poor signal-to-noise ratio.

^{10&}lt;sub>G</sub>. B. Kistiakowsky and G. G. Volpi, J. Chem. Phys., 27, ★, 1141 (1957).

The use of m/e = 8 to detect oxygen atoms has been discussed in detail in a preceding reference.

In this report, it was possible to use the peak at m/e = 16 for the reaction of $H_2 + 0$, where the 0 was generated by the N + NO reaction so that no O_2 was present. For the reaction of NH_3 with 0, however, it was necessary to use the peak at m/e = 8, since NH_3 produces a strong m/e = 16 peak because of NH_2 .

Calibration of the mass spectrometer for 0 was accomplished by the usual NO_2 + 0 or NO + N titrations 4 , 10 . The former calibration method was described in a previous report. The latter NO + N titration technique is shown in figure 2 where a typical set of titration curves is shown. The equivalence point, where the flow of NO just equals the flow of N before reaction and the flow of 0 after reaction, can be seen in this figure.

Calculation of Rate Constants

In the present investigation the O-atom and O_2 concentrations were so low that O-atom recombination, due to the reactions,

$$0 + 0 + M \rightarrow 0_2 + M,$$

 $0 + 0_2 + M \rightarrow 0_3 + M,$

and

$$0_3 + 0 \rightarrow 20_2$$

was so small that it can be neglected.

As a result for the bimolecular reaction of 0 with a gas B in the stirred reactor, the decrease of 0-atom concentration $-\Delta[0]$ upon addition of B is related to the rate constant k by the following expression:

$$-\frac{\triangle[O]}{\triangle t} = k[O][B] \tag{1}$$

where $\triangle t$ is residence time of the gas in the stirred reactor and [0] is the 0-atom concentration in moles/cm³ in the reactor after addition of B. The quantity [B] is the concentration in moles/cm³ of B inside the stirred reactor.

The quantity [B] can be evaluated by taking the flow rate of B into the reactor and subtracting from it the amount of B consumed by chemical reaction. Dividing this difference by the total flow rate yields the mole fraction of B, from which [B] can be found, since the pressure and temperature of the gas are known. In this investigation, however, only a small fraction of B was consumed by chemical reaction so that direct mass spectrometric measurements were very difficult. A better procedure was to calculate this fraction on the basis of the amount of O-atom consumed and the reaction stoichiometry. The reaction stoichiometry was calculated from known rate constants for the $\rm H_2$ + O reaction and measured from NO production for the $\rm NH_2$ + O reaction, as will be described later.

Precision and Accuracy

As mentioned in a previous report¹ our rate constant data had a precision of ±20 percent and an accuracy of ±50 percent leading to an accuracy of ~±20 percent (~±1.5 kcal) for the activation energies.

The precision of mass spectrometric analyses for reactant products was low. Part of this low precision could be attributed to the instability of the mass spectrometer. In order to minimize errors due to instrument instability, all reaction products were measured simultaneously

with the O-atom concentration and expressed as a ratio of O-atom concentration to reaction product concentration. Mass spectrometer calibration curves for each of the reaction products were obtained immediately after a run by metering known amounts of the reaction product into the main gas flow. The precision for measurement of this ratio was about ±25 percent for most of this investigation.

REACTION OF H2 + O

O-Atom Consumption in the Stirred Reactor

For study of the $\rm H_2$ + 0 reaction, 0 was produced by the N + NO technique. A constant flow of 0 into the stirred reactor was maintained by a constant flow of NO into the dissociated nitrogen stream upstream of the reactor. The flow rate of NO was adjusted so that all the N atoms were replaced by 0 atoms, with no excess of NO. Then, $\rm H_2$ was added to the stirred reactor in increasing steps, and the 0 atom concentration was measured at each step. The results from measurements of this kind at four different temperatures are presented in Table I and plotted in Fig. 3. Shown in this figure are plots of $\Delta[\rm O]/[\rm O]$ against the ratio $\rm F_{\rm H_2}/F_{\rm t}$, the ratio of the hydrogen flow rate $\rm F_{\rm H_2}$ to the total flow rate $\rm F_{\rm t}$. Since the amount of hydrogen used up by chemical reaction is small, $\rm F_{\rm H_2}/F_{\rm t}$ is approximately equal to the mole fraction of $\rm H_2$ in the stirred reactor. Products of the Reaction

The only products of the reaction that could be detected were 0_2 , H_2O and H. In a previous report, 1 only H_2O and H could be identified as

major products. The presence of a large excess of O_2 in that case prevented the detection of O_2 as a reaction product.

Mechanism of the Reaction

Enough is known about the reactions of hydrogen with oxygen to allow a mechanism to be written, based on the observed products of the reaction and the experimental conditions. This mechanism is

$$H_2 + O \rightarrow OH + H \tag{2}$$

$$OH + O \rightarrow O_2 + H$$
 (3)

$$OH + H_2 \rightarrow H_2O + H$$
 (4)

Reaction (4) is selected over the alternate water-forming reaction $2 \text{ OH} \rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{O}$ since it may be shown (using rate constants from ref. 11) that the rate of this reaction must be negligible in comparison to reaction (4).

Calculation of Rate Constant for

$$H_2 + O \rightarrow OH + H$$
 Reaction

An expression for k_2 , the rate constant for the initial elementary reaction (2) in terms of experimentally measured quantities and the two other rate constants, k_3 and k_4 , can be derived from the above reaction scheme by assuming the steady state for OH. This expression is, as follows (differentials have been replaced by finite differences, appropriate to the stirred reactor):

$$-\frac{\Delta[0]}{\Delta t} = k_2[0][H_2] \left[\frac{2k_3[0] + k_4[H_2]}{k_3[0] + k_4[H_2]} \right]$$
 (5)

¹¹F. Kaufman, Ninth Symposium (International) on Combustion, Reinhold Pub. Corp., 659 (1962).

Equation (5) showed that for our experimental condition \mathbf{k}_2 is related to the total 0-atom consumption by the bracketed term, which will be called f. The rate constant factor f can be calculated since [0] was measured directly. The rate constants \mathbf{k}_3 and \mathbf{k}_4 can be obtained from reference 11, and $[\mathrm{H_2}]$ can be obtained with sufficient accuracy from the flow of added $\mathrm{H_2}$ into the reactor since only about 5 percent of the added $\mathrm{H_2}$ was consumed in the reaction as discussed in the next paragraph. Figure 4 shows a plot of calculated f values against temperature for three different values of $\mathrm{H_2}$ mole fraction $\mathrm{F_{H_2}/F_t}$ which covered the excondition encountered here. The largest deviation of f from its limiting value of 2 was about 20 percent at the highest temperature and largest $\mathrm{H_2}$ concentration. For most of the experimental conditions, the deviation from the value 2 is < 10 percent.

In order to calculate k_2 precisely, $[H_2]$ in the reactor must also be obtained. In principle, the mass spectrometer can be used to make this measurement. However, since only a small percentage of the added H_2 was consumed by chemical reaction the precision of the mass spectrometric measurements was very poor. Consequently, it was decided to calculate $[H_2]$ from the measured 0 loss. This calculation is described below.

By assuming steady state for OH, reactions(2), (3), and (4) give for the stirred reactor

$$\frac{\Delta H_2}{\Delta t} = -k_2[H_2][0] \left\{ \frac{k_3[0] + 2k_4[H_2]}{k_3[0] + k_4[H_2]} \right\}$$
 (6)

Then, dividing Eq. (5) by Eq. (6) gives an expression for the relative stoichiometry, $\Delta O/\Delta H_2$.

$$\frac{\Delta O}{\Delta H_2} = \frac{2 k_3[O] + k_4[H_2]}{k_3[O] + 2 k_4[H_2]} \tag{7}$$

This equation indicates the relative number of moles of 0 consumed per mole of $\rm H_2$ consumed, and it may be calculated with sufficient accuracy in the same manner as f. The results of this calculation are presented in Fig. 5(a) which shows $\Delta[0]/\Delta[\rm H_2]$ as a function of temperature and $\rm F_{\rm H_2}/F_t$ for our experimental condition. The values of $\Delta[0]/\Delta[\rm H_2]$

vary from about 1.1 to 2.0.

These $\Delta[0]/\Delta[H_2]$ values can now be used with experimental values of $\Delta[0]$ and $[H_2]_0$, concentration of H_2 in the reactor in the absence of reaction, to find $\Delta[H_2]/[H_2]_0$, the fraction of H_2 consumed in the reaction. Figure 5(b) shows these fractions for our experimental condition and indicates that $\Delta[H_2]/[H_2]_0$ ranges from 1 to 10 percent. The curves of Fig. 5(b) can be used to obtain values of $[H_2]$ from the experimental values of $[H_2]_0$.

The results of the calculation of \mathbf{k}_2 outlined above are given in Table I and are shown in Fig. 6, where a semilogarithmic plot of the rate constant \mathbf{k}_2 against 1/T is shown. The equation of the line through the data is

$$k_2 = 4.3 \times 10^{13} \exp(-10,200/RT) \operatorname{cc/(mole)(sec)}$$
 (8)

This result is compared with data from Clyne and Thrush, Fenimore and Jones, Baldwin, and Azatyan in Fig. 7. The most recent data covering a range of temperature similar to the range in this report are those of Clyne and Thrush. Our rate constants average about 20 percent higher than theirs, and our activation energy is 0.8 kcal/mole higher than theirs. The agreement is satisfactory, considering the completely different methods used.

THE EFFECT OF MOLECULAR OXYGEN ON THE

OXIDATION RATE OF H2 BY O

In a previous paper we studied the reaction of hydrogen with mixtures of molecular and atomic oxygen. The overall rate constant, as defined in Eq. (1), for disappearance of atomic oxygen in the stirred reactor was found for this case to be

$$k^{0,02} = 3 \times 10^{13} \exp(8,300/RT) \text{ cc/(mole)(sec)}$$
 (9)

It is interesting to compare these rate constants with those for the disappearance of 0 in the absence of O_2 . In the preceding section, data for the consumption of 0 were used to calculate rate constants for the reaction $H_2 + O \rightarrow OH + O$. These same data (Table I) can be used to calculate overall rate constants k^O for 0 disappearance in the absence of O_2 . Equation (1) defines the overall rate constant k^O that is calculated in this way. Comparison of equations (1) and (5) show that $k^O \approx 2k_2$, since the term in brackets in Eq. (5) is ≈ 2 . The results are shown in Fig. 8, along with rate constants for the case of excess molecular oxygen.

It can be seen that the presence of molecular oxygen greatly increases the rate of disappearance of atomic oxygen. The increase ranges from a factor of five at low temperatures to about three at high temperatures. In the following paragraphs, this increase in rate is explained.

In the presence of O_2 , it is necessary to add⁵ two reactions to the three-reaction scheme proposed above for the reaction of H_2 with O. With these reactions, the reaction scheme for the reaction of H_2 with $(O + O_2)$ is

$$H_2 + O \rightarrow OH + H \tag{2}$$

$$OH + O \rightarrow O_2 + H \tag{3}$$

$$OH + H_2 \rightarrow H_2O + H$$
 (4)

$$O_2 + H + M \rightarrow HO_2 + M$$
 (10)

$$HO_2 + O \rightarrow OH + O_2$$
 (11)

The purpose herein is to show how the preceding reaction mechanism can explain the effect of excess 0_2 on the rate of 0 disappearance. In order to do this, the reaction mechanism is used with the data for the $H_2 + (0 + 0_2)$ reaction to deduce rate constants for the $H_2 + 0 \rightarrow 0$ H + H reaction. These rate constants can then be compared with the rate constants for this reaction obtained in the previous section from the reaction in the absence of molecular oxygen.

On the basis of the preceding reaction mechanism the O-atom decay rate -d[0]/dt may be expressed as follows:

$$-\frac{d[0]}{dt} = k_2[0][H_2] + k_3[OH][0] + k_{11}[HO_2][0]$$
 (12)

Then by assuming steady state for OH and HO2, Eq. (12) may be rewritten as

$$-\frac{d[0]}{dt} = k_2[0][H_2] + k_3[OH][0] + k_{10}[H][0_2][M]$$
 (13)

Expressions for [H] and [OH] were obtained as follows:

For [H] one makes use of the equation

$$\frac{d[H]}{dt} = 2 k_2[H_2][0]$$
 (14)

This equation can be put into the finite difference form appropriate to the stirred reactor. Since the initial atomic hydrogen concentration is zero, Eq. (14) gives

$$[H] = 2 k_2[H_2][0] \Delta t$$
 (15)

where Δt is the residence time in the stirred reactor.

For [OH] one finds that

$$[OH] = \frac{k_2[H_2][O](1 + 2 k_{10}[O_2][M] \Delta t)}{k_3[O] + k_4[H_2]}$$
(16)

Now after proper substitution and conversion to the finite-difference form, Eq. (13) may be written as

$$\frac{\Delta[0]}{\Delta t} = -k_2[H_2][0] \left[\left(\frac{2 k_3[0] + k_4[H_2]}{k_3[0] + k_4[H_2]} \right) \left(1 + 2 k_{10}[0_2][M] \Delta t \right) \right]$$
(17)

Values of k_2 were calculated from this equation by using the experimental data for the H_2 and $(0 + O_2)$ reaction, and a value of k_{10} based upon references 12 and 13. Reference 12 reported a value of $k_{10} = 0.8 \times 10^{16} \ \text{cc}^2/(\text{mole}^2)(\text{sec})$ at 2930 K for M = Argon and an activation

 $^{^{12}\}text{M.}$ A. A. Clyne, Ninth Symposium (International) on Combustion, Reinhold Pub. Corp. 211 (1963).

¹³B. Lewis and G. von Elbe, Combustion, Flames, and Explosions of Gases, Academic Press, Inc. 33 (1951).

energy $\Delta E = -1600$ cal. Reference 13 provided information to calculate k_{10} for the experimental condition where $M = O_2$. Values of k_3 and k_4 were again from reference 11. The results of this calculation are shown in Fig. 9, where the calculated rate constants are compared with k_2 values from the preceding section. This figure shows that the calculated rate constants agree fairly well with the values measured more directly. This agreement gives evidence favoring the reaction mechanism proposed for the reaction of H_2 with $O + O_2$ mixtures. Thus, the increased rate of O_2 atom disappearance in the presence of O_2 is due to the $O_2 + O_2 + O_3 + O_4 + O_4 + O_5 + O_4 + O_5 +$

REACTION OF NHz WITH O

Atomic Oxygen Consumption in Stirred Reactor

For study of the $\mathrm{NH_3}$ + 0 reaction, 0 was produced both by the N + NO titration technique and by subjecting a 1.8-percent $\mathrm{O_2}$ -Ar mixture to a microwave discharge. Since ammonia produces a strong peak in the mass spectrometer at $\mathrm{m/e} = 16$, it was necessary to monitor 0 consumption at $\mathrm{m/e} = 8$ with an ionizing voltage of 85 volts.

This technique was used to measure the amount of 0 consumed in the stirred reactor at increasing levels of NH_3 concentration for three different temperatures. These data are shown in Table II and plotted in Fig. 10.

Products of the Reaction

In a previous investigation on the $\mathrm{NH_3}$ + ($\mathrm{O_2}$ + 0) reaction the principal products were NO and $\mathrm{H_2O}$, the secondary product was $\mathrm{H_2}$, with possibly a trace of H.

In the work reported herein, the products from ammonia reacting with atomic oxygen produced from the N + NO reaction were measured first. As before, the principal products included NO and $\rm H_2O$; however, a mass spectrometer peak at $\rm m/e=32$ was also observed. This could not have been detected in our previous work because of the excess of molecular oxygen present. The peak at $\rm m/e=32$ could arise either from $\rm O_2$ or from hydrazine, $\rm N_2H_4$. In order to differentiate between the two, fully deuterated ammonia, ND₃ was reacted with 0 free of $\rm O_2$. The peak at $\rm m/e=32$ did not shift, so that it must have originated from $\rm O_2$ and not from $\rm N_2H_4$.

When using 0 from the N + NO reaction, a large excess of $\rm N_2$ is present, so that any $\rm N_2$ formed as a reaction product could escape undetected. To test this possibility, NH₃ was reacted with 0 produced by microwave discharge through a dilute (1.8 percent) $\rm O_2$ mixture with argon. No N₂ could be detected.

In all the experiments described in Table II, ${\rm H}_2$ was detectable as a minor product, although H was not.

There was no N₂-containing product other than NO; $\rm O_2$, H₂, and H₂O were the remaining reaction products.

Stoichiometry of Reaction

Since there is no N_2 -containing product other than NO, each mole of

 ${
m NH}_3$ used in the reaction must yield one mole of NO. If arbitrary values of x and y are assigned to the moles of ${
m H}_2$ and ${
m O}_2$ produced in the reaction, the reaction can be written as

$$NH_3 + \left(\frac{5}{2} - x + 2y\right) O \rightarrow NO + xH_2 + y O_2 + \left(\frac{3}{2} - x\right) H_2O$$
 (18)

Study of this equation shows that x is limited in value to $0 \le x \le 3/2$, but y can vary from 0 to $+\infty$. Also, since there are only two unknowns, x and y, the complete stoichiometry of the reaction can be found from measurement of only two components, such as 0 and 0_2 , relative to NO or NH_3 .

To determine one of the necessary coefficients, measurements of the O stoichiometry were obtained by measuring $\Delta[0]/\Delta[NO]$ since it was observed that each mole of NH₃ consumed yields one mole of NO. The value of $\Delta[NO]$ can be measured with much greater accuracy than $\Delta[NH_3]$ since the initial NO concentration is zero. Values of $\Delta[O]/\Delta[NO]$ for two different temperatures and various F_{NH_3}/F_t are shown in Fig. 11. Al-

though there is much scatter in the data, the average value of $\Delta[0]/\Delta[NO]$, neglecting any temperature trend is ~4.4.

Additional support for the above relative stoichiometry value was obtained by $\Delta[0]/\Delta[\mathrm{NH}_3]$ measurements at temperatures of 350° and 550° K. At the lower temperature the measurement was impractical since values of $\Delta[\mathrm{NH}_3]$ were too small to be measured reliably. For the higher temperature the values of $\Delta[0]/\Delta[\mathrm{NH}_3]$ were 4 to 5 agreeing with the previously stated $\Delta[0]/\Delta[\mathrm{NO}]$ value.

In order to determine the other stoichiometric ratios, $\Delta[0]/\Delta[0_2]$ and $\Delta[0]/\Delta[H_2]$, the values of $\Delta[0]_f$, $\Delta[0_2]_f$, and $\Delta[H_2]_f$, the changes in flow rates of these species, were measured as a function of NH₃ flow rate. These results are shown in Fig. 12. Values for the stoichiometric ratios were obtained by drawing mean lines through the data, and dividing the slopes of the $\Delta[0]_f$ line by the slopes of the $\Delta[0_2]_f$ or $\Delta[H_2]_f$ lines, as shown in Table III. No significant trends with temperature are noted. The average value for $\Delta[0]/\Delta[0_2]$ was 4 and for $\Delta[0]/\Delta[H_2]$ was 9.

Additional stoichiometric information was obtained by measuring $\Delta[\mathrm{H}_20]$. Here it was necessary to express $[\mathrm{H}_20]$ in terms of ion currents only, because of the difficulty of calibrating for small amount of H_20 . These results are compared with $\Delta 0_2$ and $\Delta \mathrm{H}_2$, also in terms of ion current, and shown in Fig. 13. This figure shows that $\Delta[\mathrm{H}_20]$ lies about midway between $\Delta[0]$ and $\Delta[\mathrm{H}_2]$. Since $\Delta[0]/\Delta[0_2] \approx 3.7$ and $\Delta[0]/\Delta[\mathrm{H}_2] \approx 9$, $\Delta[0]/\Delta[\mathrm{H}_2]$ must be about 6.

The two more reliable stoichiometric ratios, $\Delta[0]/\Delta[NO]$ and $\Delta[0]/\Delta[0_2]$, can be used to calculate the reaction stoichiometry.

Equation (18) shows that

$$\frac{\Delta[0]}{\Delta[NO]} = \frac{5}{2} - \mathbf{x} + 2\mathbf{y} \approx 4.4 \tag{19}$$

and

$$\frac{\Delta[0]}{\Delta[0_2]} = \frac{5}{2y} - \frac{x}{y} + 2 \approx 3.7 \tag{20}$$

From the experimental values of these ratios it was found that $x\approx 0.5 \ \ \text{and} \ \ y\approx 1.2.$ The reaction can then be written as

$$NH_3 + 4.4 O \rightarrow NO + 0.5 H_2 + 1.2 O_2 + 1.0 H_2O$$
 (21)

The ratio $\Delta[0]/\Delta[H_2]$ derived from this equation is 9, which is in good agreement with the value of 9 obtained experimentally. Similarly, the ratio $\Delta[0]/\Delta[H_20]$ from the equation is 4, which agrees qualitatively with the experimental value of 6.

Rate Constants for Consumption of Atomic Oxygen

The data on O consumption were used with Eq. (1) to calculate bimolecular rate constants. The required [NH $_3$] term was calculated from the NH $_3$ flow into the reactor by subtracting from it the NH $_3$ consumed. The amount of NH $_3$ consumed was found from the amount of O consumed and the reaction stoichiometry. The results are plotted in Fig. 14. Data for atomic oxygen produced both from N + NO and from O $_2$ + Ar are shown and are compared with data from reference 1 for O + O $_2$ mixtures, shown as a dashed line, and Avramenko's work $_3$.

It is interesting to note in Fig. 14 that the rate constant is unaffected by presence or absence of O_2 , within experimental error. This is quite different from the oxidation of hydrogen where the rate constant was increased about a factor of 3 to 5 by excess O_2 . It follows from this that O_2 does not play a significant role in the oxidation of NH₃. The rate constant for 0 consumption k_{22}^0 can be taken to be $3\times10^{12} \,\mathrm{e}^{-4}$, $900/\mathrm{RT}$ cc/(mole)(sec) as found in ref. 1.

A Possible Reaction Mechanism

A series of reaction steps can be written to account for the reaction products. The most plausible set of reactions are as follows:

$$NH_3 + O \rightarrow NH_2 + OH \tag{22}$$

$$NH_2 + O > NH + OH$$
 (23)

$$NH + O \rightarrow NO + H \tag{24}$$

$$OH + O \rightarrow O_2 + H \tag{25}$$

$$OH + NH_3 \rightarrow NH_2 + H_2O \tag{26}$$

$$H + NO + M \rightarrow HNO + M$$
 (27)

$$HNO + H \rightarrow H_2 + NO \tag{28}$$

Other reactions certainly occur, but are thought to be of minor importance.

The initial reaction step must be the attack of NH_3 by 0. By analogy with H_2 , the products are thought to be NH_2 and OH. The amino radical (NH_2) is expected to be very reactive, and a reaction with O probably predominates. By analogy with the initial step, the products are probably NH and OH. The imino radical (NH) can react with O to give NO and H. This reaction is energetically possible and is the most plausible process that yields NO. The appearance of O_2 among the products can be accounted for by the reaction of OH and O, which is known to be extremely fast. The reaction of OH and NH $_3$ to yield NH $_2$ and H $_2$ O is the most plausible reaction for the production of H $_2$ O. The presence of H $_2$ and the absence of H can be accounted for by the NO catalyzed H recombination reactions shown in Eqs. (27) and (28). These two reactions were selected over other alternate

reactions since they are known to be fast. 14

The preceding reaction scheme can also explain why the overall rate constant is unaffected by the presence or absence of excess O_2 , since the termolecular reaction $H + O_2 + M \rightarrow HO_2 + M$ is relatively unimportant because reaction (27) is so fast.

The reaction mechanism outlined in Eqs. (22) to (28) can be used to relate the atomic oxygen consumption rate constant k_{22}^0 to the rate constant k_{22}^0 for the initial oxidation step $\mathrm{NH}_3 + 0 \to \mathrm{NH}_2 + \mathrm{OH}$. With the steady state assumed for NH_2 , NH , and OH , it can be shown that

$$k_{22} = \frac{\Delta[0] - \Delta[0_2] - 2 \Delta(N0)}{\Delta t[0][NH_3]}$$
 (28)

where differentials have been replaced by finite differences appropriate to the stirred reactor.

Defining A as

$$A = \frac{\Delta[O] - \Delta[O_2] - 2 \Delta[NO]}{\Delta[O]}$$
(29)

and recalling from equation (1) that

$$k_{22}^{O} = \frac{\Delta[O]}{\Delta t[O][NH_3]} \tag{30}$$

then

$$k_{22}^{A} = A k_{22}^{O}$$
 (31)

¹⁴ T. M. Sugden, E. M. Balewicz, and A. Demerdoche, Chemical Reactions in the Lower and Upper Atmosphere, Interscience Pub. 89, 1961.

From the experimental stoichiometry, it is found that

$$A = \frac{4.4 - 1.2 - 2}{4.4} = 0.27 \tag{32}$$

so that

$$k_{22}^{\dagger} = 0.27 k_{22}^{0}$$
 (33)

From the above result the rate expression for the primary reaction Eq. (22) is, as follows:

$$k_{22} = 1 \times 10^{12} \exp(-4.900/RT) cc/(mole)(sec)$$
 (34)

TABLE I. - STIRRED REACTOR MEASUREMENTS OF ATOMIC OXYGEN WITH MOLECULAR HYDROGEN

Run	Added molecular hydrogen flow (NTP),a cc/sec	Tempera- ture, °K	Nitrogen carrier gas flow into discharge (NTF),a cc/sec	Nitric oxide gas added or oxygen atoms produced (NTP), ^a cc/sec	Fraction of oxygen atoms consumed in reactor un-corrected for pressure, $\Delta[0]/[0]^*$	Fraction of oxygen atoms consumed in reactor by reaction with added molecular hydrogen, \$\Delta(0)/(0)\$	Pressure, mm Hg	Residence time, At, sec	Fraction of hydrogen gas consumed (calculated), $\Delta[\text{H}_2]/[\text{H}_2]_0$	Factor relating k2 to -A[0] (calculated), c	Rate constant, k ₂ , cc/(mole)(sec)
1a 2a 3a	0.163 .314 .318	396 397 397	1.46 1.46 1.46	0.034 .033 .034	0.15 .24 .33	0.07 .12 .20	0.66 .69 .70	0.13 .13 .13	0.01 .01 .01	2.0 2.0 2.0	1.1×10 ⁸ 1.0 1.6
								_	Ave	Average value rage deviation	1.2×10 ⁸ ±19 percent
6a 6b 7b 8a 8b	0.200 .195 .185 .070 .169	506 506 510 510	1.46	0.034 .034 .033 .034 .034	1.25 .93 .78 .40 .82	1.17 .85 .70 .37	0.67 .67 .67 .64 .66	0.10	0.04 .04 .04 .07 .05	1.9 1.9 1.9 2.0	2.%xi0 1.9 1.6 2.1 2.0
				•					Ave	Average value rage deviation	2.0x10 ⁹ +10 percent
9a 9b 10a 10b 10c 11a 11b 11c	0.060 .216 .046 .093 .200 .038 .077 .158	596 596 600 600 601	1.46	0.034 .034 .032	1.10 3.21 .74 1.31 2.24 .48 1.01 2.47 3.12	1.07 3.12 .72 1.27 2.16 .46 .98 2.40 3.02	0.64 .68 .65 .67 .64 .66	0.09	0,12 .08 .12 .11 .08 .12 .11 .09	1.9 1.7 2.0 1.9 1.7 2.0 1.9 1.8	10.7+10 ⁹ 10.0 9.3 8.3 7.4 6.9 7.9 9.9
									Ave	Average value rage deviation	8.9×10 ⁹ ±13 percent
12a 12b 13a 14a	0.263 .254 .107 .138	399 399 400 400	1.46	0.037 .037 .033 .031	0.19 .18 .10 .13	0.08 .07 .05 .07	0.68 .68 .65	0.13	0.01 .01 .02 .01	2.0	0.76×10 ⁸ .67 1.2 1.2
								1	Ave	Average value rage deviation	0.96×10 ⁶ ±24 percent
15b 16a 16b 17a 17b 17c	0,213 .046 .132 .020 .068 .269	595 597 597 595	1.44	0.032 .033 .033 .034	2.51 .63 1.62 .32 .95 2.77	2.42 .6 1.56 .31 .92 2.66 2.66	0.67 .64 .65 .63 .64 .69	0.09	0.08 .12 .09 .13 .11 .07	1.7 2.0 1.8 2.0 1.9 1.5	7.7×10 ⁹ 7.5 7.6 8.7 8.3 7.6 7.4
	-								Ave	Average value rage deviation	7.8x10 ⁹ ±5 percent
18a 18b 18c 18d 19a 19b 19c 20a 20b 20c	0.047 .124 .213 .196 .045 .117 .185 .030 .111 .265	507 509	1.44	.031	0.23 .54 .91 .96 .22 .51 .80 .15 .43	0.21 .48 .82 .87 .20 .46 .72 .13 .38	0.64 .65 .67 .67 .64 .65 .65 .65	0.10	0.07 .05 .04 .04 .07 .05 .04 .08 .06	2.0 2.0 1.9 1.9 2.0 2.0 1.9 2.0 2.0	1.8×10 ⁹ 1.6 1.6 1.9 1.8 1.6 1.6 1.7
								-4-	Ave	Average value rage deviation	1.7×10 ⁹ ±6 percent
21 22 23 24 25 26	0.081 .132 .196 .209 .210 .159	451 451 449	1.50	0.032	0.08 .28 .37 .37 .45	0,08 .22 .30 .28 .36 .38	0.66 .67 .68 .68 .69	0.11	0.04 .03 .03 .02 .02 .02	2.0 2.0 2.0 1.9 1.9 2.0	2.9×10 ⁸ 5.2 4.8 4.5 5.6 7.4
			-	_					Ave	Average value rage deviation	5.1×10 ⁸ ±20 percent
27 28 29 30 31 32	0.091 .078 .095 .171 .184 .251	430 430 430 425 425 425	1.69	0.035 .034 .030 .027 .039 .027	0.09 .09 .09 .30 .26	0.05 .06 .05 .22 .18	0.70 .70 .70 .67 .68	0.12	0.03 .03 .03 .02 .02	2.0	1.6×10 ⁸ 2.3 1.6 3.6 2.7 2.4
	omal towns								Ave	Average value rage deviation	2.4×10 ⁸ ±21 percent

⁸Normal temperature and pressure $^{b}\Delta[0] = [0]_{0}$ (initial oxygen atom concentration) - [0] (final oxygen atom concentration). c See p. 8 of text.

TABLE II. - STIRRED REACTOR MEASUREMENTS OF ATOMIC OXYGEN WITH AMMONIA (a) Atomic nitrogen and nitric oxide technique used as atomic oxygen source

Run	Added ammon1a flow (NTP),a cc/sec	Tempera- ture, ^O K	Nitrogen carrier gas flow into discharge (NTP),a cc/sec	Nitric oxide gas added or oxygen atoms produced (NTP), a cc/sec	Fraction of oxygen atoms consumed in reactor uncorrected for pressure, [0]/[0]* (b)	Fraction of oxygen atoms consumed in reactor by reaction with added ammonia, Δ[0]/[0]	Pressure, mm Hg	Residence time, Δt, sec	Relative stoichiometry, $\Delta[0]/\Delta[NH_3]$ or $\Delta[0]/\Delta[NO]$	Rate constant for oxygen atom consumption, k ^o ₂₂ , cc/(mole)(sec)
la 2a 2b 3a 3b 4a	0.077 .051 .193 .043 .200 .042	320 323 323 325 325 325 330	1.55	0.020 .034 .034 .037 .037 .020	0.42 .32 .71 .27 .73	0.38 .30 .64 .25 .65	0.67 .66 .69 .66 .69	0.15	4.4	1.6×10 ⁹ 2.0 1.1 2.0 1.1 2.1
								Ave	Average value erage deviation	1.7×10 ⁹ ±22 percent
5a 6a 6b 7a 7b 7c 8b 9a 9b 10a 10b	0.057 .059 .236 .035 .323 .253 .170 .096 .283 .087 .203	328 328 331 330	1.51	0.030 .036 .033 .033 .029 .029	0.18 .18 .59 .21 .96 .96 .69 .52 1.04	0.15 .15 .49 .19 .83 .86 .62 .48 .93	0.66 .66 .69 .66 .71 .69 .68 .66 .70	0.16	4.4	0.85×10 ⁹ .81 .72 1.8 .89 1.2 1.7 1.1 1.1
						·		Ave	Average value rage deviation	1.1×10 ⁹ ±22 percent
11a 12a 12b 13a 14a 14b 15a 15b 16c 16d 17a 17c	0.221 .042 .104 .074 .046 .129 .033 .106 .181 .052 .102 .190 .040	443 440 440 433 432 433 432 432 432 432	1.51	0.035 .035 .035 .034 .027 .024	1.77 .36 .82 .62 .41 .88 .28 1.05 1.63 .28 .54 .95 1.56	1.68 .34 .77 .58 .39 .82 .26 1.00 1.55 .26 .51 .90 1.48 .22 .58	0.69 .67 .65 .66 .67 .67 .66 .68 .67 .66 .68 .68	0.12	4.4	4.6×10 ⁹ 4.7 4.4 4.5 4.8 3.6 4.4 4.9 4.9 4.2 5.6 5.1 4.5 3.0 4.5 5.2
								Ave	Average value rage deviation	4.6×10 ⁹ ±10 percent
18a 18b 18c 18d 19a 19b 19c 20a 20b 20c 21b 22a 22b	0.028 .069 .140 .135 .044 .083 .130 .036 .083 .143 .023 .044 .050	593 594 593 593 596 596 596 597	1.51	0.036	1.21 2.86 5.94 5.94 1.97 4.27 5.99 1.52 4.50 8.57 .99 1.94 2.36 4.13	1.20 2.83 5.88 5.88 1.95 4.23 5.93 1.50 4.46 8.51 .98 1.92 2.34	0.65 .66 .67 .66 .66 .66 .66 .66 .65 .65 .65	0.087	4.4	5.3×10 ¹⁰ 4.7 4.7 4.9 5.2 5.9 5.1 5.1 5.1 5.1 5.2 6.7 5.1 5.0 5.5 4.7
					J	L		A	Average value rage deviation	5.3×10 ¹⁰ ±8 percent

anormal temperature and pressure. $^{b}\Delta[0]$ = $[0]_{0}$ (initial oxygen atom concentration) - [0] (final oxygen atom concentration).

TABLE II. - Continued. STIRRED REACTOR MEASUREMENTS OF ATOMIC OXYGEN WITH AMMONIA (a) Consluded Atomic nitrogen and nitric oxide technique used as atomic oxygen source

	Added ammonia flow (NTP),a cc/sec	Tempera- ture, OK	Nitrogen carrier gas flow into discharge (NTP), ^a cc/sec	Nitric oxide gas added or oxygen atoms produced (NTP), ^a cc/sec	oxygen atoms	Fraction of oxygen atoms consumed in reactor by reaction with added ammonia, \$\Delta[0]/[0]\$	Pressure, mm Hg	Residence time, Δt , sec	Relative stoichiometry, $\Delta[0]/\Delta[\mathrm{NH}_3]$ or $\Delta[0]/\Delta[\mathrm{NO}]$	nate constant for oxygen atom consumption, \$22, cc/(mole)(sec)
23b 23c 24b 25a 26a 26b 26d 27a 27b 28a 28b 29a		324 324 326 326 326 331	1.51	0.030 .030 .033 .029 .033 .033 .033 .036 .036 .028 .028	0.95 .80 .60 .16 .17 .51 1.01 .18 .42 .28 .64	0.85 .73 .56 .15 .16 .46 .90 .17 .37 .25	0.68 .68 .65 .65 .67 .70 .65 .67 .65	0.16	4.4	1.5×10 ⁹ 1.3 2.2 1.9 2.3 1.1 1.9 1.0 1.3 9 1.1
								Ave	Average value erage deviation	1.5x10 ⁸ ±27 percent
30a 31 32 33 34 35 36 37	0.015 .021 .026 .038 .029 .017 .034	588 593 594 591 589 589 589 595	1.51	0.030 .029 .024 .020 .026 .022 .022	0.35 1.01 1.21 1.40 1.20 .61 1.65 1.55	0.34 1.00 1.19 1.38 1.19 .60 1.63 1.53	0.65 .64 .65	0.088 .087 .087 .087 .088 .088 .087	4.4	2.7×10 ¹⁰ 5.9 5.3 3.9 4.6 4.1 5.5 5.3
			·					Ave	Average value erage deviation	4.7×10 ¹⁰ ±18 percent

a Normal temperature and pressure. $^{b}\Delta[0] = [0]_{o}$ (initial oxygen atom concentration) - [0] (final oxygen atom concentration).

TABLE II. - Concluded. STIRRED REACTOR MEASUREMENTS OF ATOMIC OXYGEN WITH AMMONIA (b) 1.8 Percent molecular oxygen - argon mixture used as atomic oxygen source

Run	Added	Tempera-	Oxygen	Fraction of	Fraction of	T	TE	тъ		
	ammonia flow (NTP),a cc/sec	ture, °K	carrier gas	oxygen atoms consumed in reactor un-	coxygen atoms consumed in reactor by reaction with added ammonia, A[0]/[0]	Initial oxygen atom or nitrogen di- oxide concentration, [0] cc/sec (b)	Pressure, mm Hg	Residence time, Δ t, sec	Relative stoichiometry, $\Delta[0]/\Delta[NH_3]$ or $\Delta[0]/\Delta[NO]$	Rate constant for oxygen ator consumption, k ⁰ ₂₂ , cc/(mole)(sec)
la lb lc 3a 3b	0.103 .097 .097 .042 .039	306	1.50	0.31 .46 .35 .24 .26	0.26 .42 .31 .22 .24	(0.04)	0.65 .64 .64	0.17	4.4	7.1×10 ² 13.0 9.2 14.7 17.9
			·				<u> </u>	Ave	Average value erage deviation	1.2×10 ⁹ ±29 percent
4a 4b 4c 4d 5a 5b 5c	0.0087 .0072 .0077 .0064 .032 .035 .058	541 553 559 561 566 567	1.50	0.34 .35 .38 .37 1.95 1.76 3.06	0.34 .35 .38 .37 1.93 1.74 3.08	(0.04)	0.64	0.10	4.4	4.4×10 ¹⁰ 6.3 6.5 8.5 6.9 5.7 5.6
								Ave	Average value erage deviation	6.3×10 ¹⁰ ±14 percent
l'a l'b l'c l'd 2'b 3a 3b	0.0092 .0092 .0083 .0083 .033 .081	565	1.50	0.42 .58 .44 .60 1.96 5.64 5.92	0.42 .58 .44 .60 1.94 5.60 5.88	(0.04)	0.64 .65 .65	0.09	4.4	5.9×10 ¹⁰ 9.1 7.3 11.3 6.6 7.7 8.1
								Ave	Average value erage deviation	8.0×10 ¹⁰ ±16 percent
5'a 5'b 5'c 6'b 7'a 8'b 8'b 9'b	0.036 .041 .036 .133 .131 .252 .232 .104 .102 .194 .196	428	1.50	0.58 .52 1.66 1.59 2.85 2.69 1.17 1.28 2.29 2.34	0.56 .50 1.60 1.53 2.74 2.59 1.12 1.23 2.20 2.25	(0.04)	0.67 .666 .699 .686 .655	0.12	4.4	9.0×10 ⁹ 6.9 7.9 10.9 6.7 6.5 6.5 6.0 6.7 6.4 6.4
								Ave	Average value rage deviation	7.2×10 ⁹ ±15 percent
0'a 0'b 1'b 1'b 4'c 4'd 4'd 4'd 55'b	0.057 .057 .149 .148 .278 .062 .062 .065 .065 .128 .125 .273	305 307 306 306 306 305	1.50	0.34 .35 .68 .68 1.12 .31 .25 .32 .30 .51 .58 .97	0.31 .32 .61 .61 1.01 .28 .22 .29 .27 .45 .52 .86	(0.04)	0.65 .65 .67 .70 .65	.16	4.4	1.5×10 ⁹ 1.6 1.2 1.1 1.3 1.0 1.3 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0
								Ave	Average value rage deviation	1.2×10 ⁹ ±17 percent

aNormal temperature and pressure.

bEstimated initial oxygen atom concentration [0] based on approximately 75 percent molecular oxygen dissociation.

TABLE III

Tempera- ature, OK	전이]/전02]	△[0]/△[H ₂]	스[0]/스[H ₂ 0]	△[0]/△[N0]
325	3	9 to 10	6 to 7	~
437	3	9	4 to 5	
569	5	9	5 t o 9	
Average	3.7	9	~6	4.4 (fig. 11)

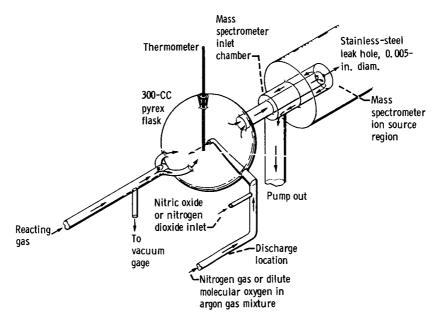


Figure 1. - Stirred reactor and connection to mass spectrometer.

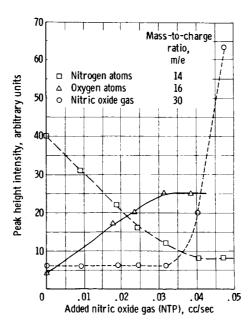


Figure 2. – Titration curves for NO + N \rightarrow 0 + N₂ reaction. Bendix operating at 30 ionizing electron volts; nitrogen carrier gas, flow rate, 1.5 cubic centimeters per second (normal temperature and pressure, NTP); pressure, 0.62 millimeter of mercury.

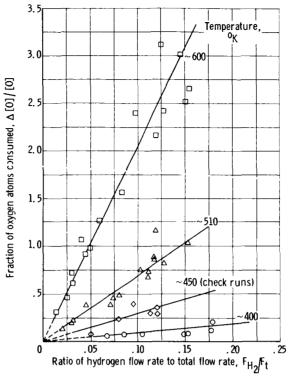


Figure 3. - Oxygen atoms consumed by added molecular hydrogen. Temperature range, 400° to 600° K; nitrogen carrier gas flow rate, 1.5 cubic centimeters per second; pressure, 0.7 to 0.8 millimeter of mercury.

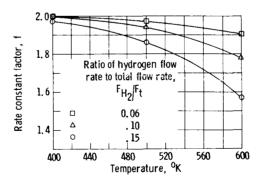
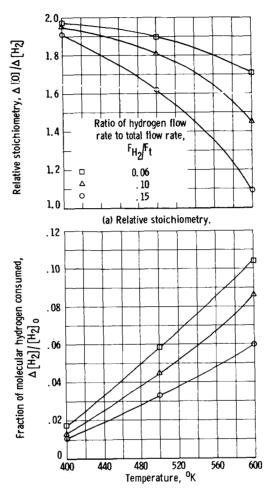


Figure 4. - Calculations of rate constant factor f for H_2 + 0 \rightarrow 0H + H reaction.



(b) Fraction of hydrogen consumed.

Figure 5. - Calculations of relative stoichiometry and fraction of molecular hydrogen consumed.

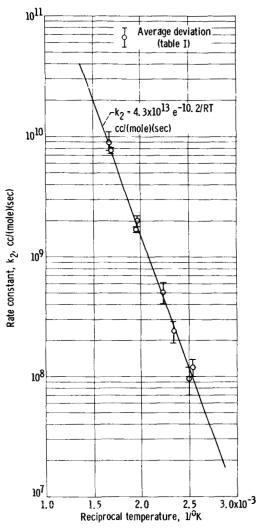


Figure 6. - Rate constants for $H_2 + 0 \rightarrow OH + H$ reaction.

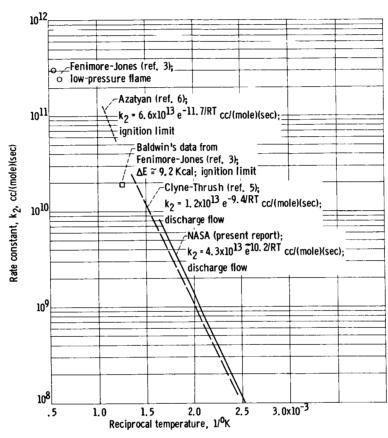


Figure 7. - Comparisons of rate constants for $H_2 + O \rightarrow OH + H$ reaction.

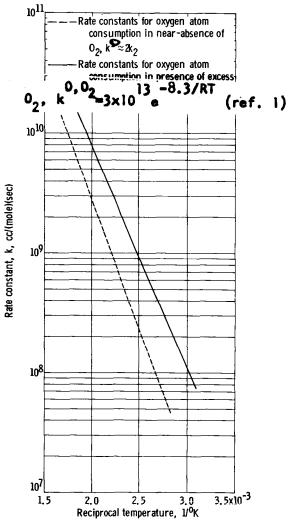


Figure 8. - Comparison of rate constants for oxygen atom consumption for the ${\rm H}_2$ + 0 reaction.

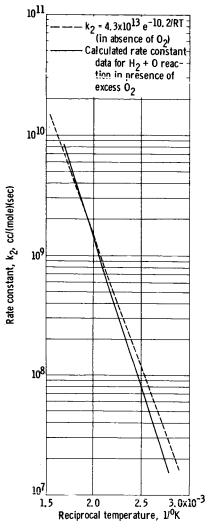


Figure 9. - Calculated rate constants for $H_2 + 0 \rightarrow 0H + H$ reaction in presence of excess molecular oxygen.

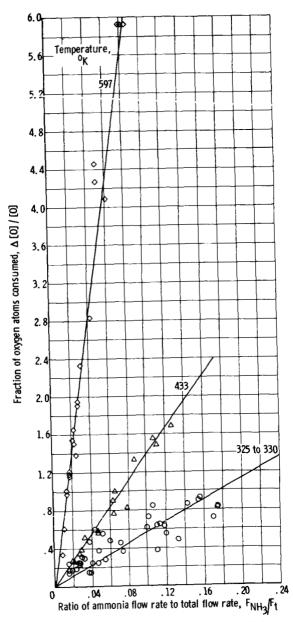
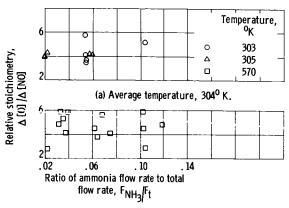


Figure 10. - Oxygen atoms consumed by added ammonia.



(b) Temperature, 570° K.

Figure 11. - Measured relative stoichiometry for ammonia - atomic oxygen reaction; source of oxygen atoms, dilute molecular oxygen - argon mixture.

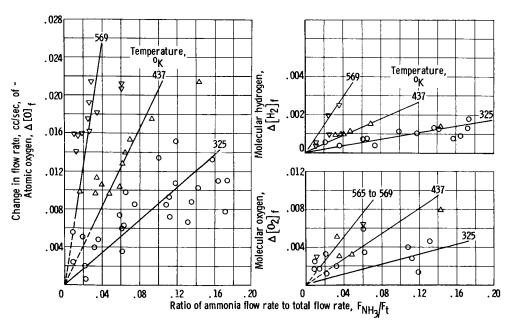


Figure 12. - Changes in flow rates of atomic oxygen, molecular oxygen, and molecular hydrogen for ammonia - atomic oxygen reaction at conditions of normal temperature and pressure.

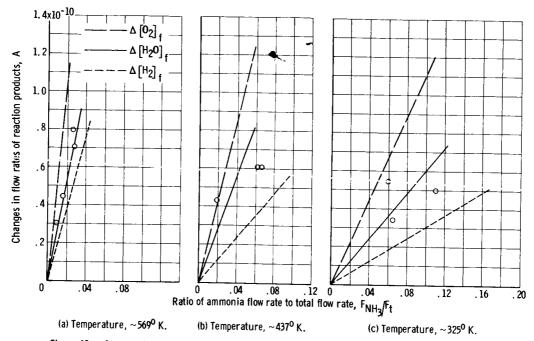


Figure 13. - Changes in flow rates of molecular oxygen, molecular hydrogen, and water for ammonia - atomic oxygen reaction in terms of ion current.

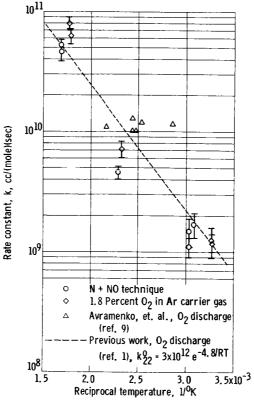


Figure 14. - Rate constants for oxygen atom consumption due to added ammonia.